



California Field Crop Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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MARCH 1, 2010 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

California's March intentions estimates were based on a survey of nearly 2,500 California farmers. The survey was conducted March 1-15, but referred to farmers' intentions on **March 1**. Therefore, the impact of weather or market conditions since that date is not reflected in this report.

COTTON: On March 1, **California** farmers were intending to plant 100.0 thousand acres to Upland cotton in 2010. In addition, growers were expecting to seed 165 thousand acres to American-Pima cotton in 2010, 39 percent above the 119 thousand acres planted last year. **Nationally**, all cotton plantings for 2010 are expected to total 10.5 million acres, up 15 percent from last year.

CORN: **California** farmers were expected to plant 650 thousand acres of corn for all purposes in 2010, an increase of 18 percent from last year. **U.S.** corn growers intend to plant 88.8 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2010, up 3 percent from both last year and 2008.

OATS: On March 1, farmers in **California** had planted or expected to plant 240 thousand acres of oats, 4 percent less than in 2009. **U.S.** growers intend to plant an estimated 3.36 million acres, down 1 percent from last year's planted area of 3.40 million acres. If realized, this will be the second lowest planted acreage on record.

WHEAT: In **California**, winter wheat has been seeded on 600 thousand acres, 2 percent above the previous year. Another 115 thousand acres has been seeded to Durum wheat, 36 percent below the amount planted in 2009. At the **U.S.** level, 2010's all wheat planted area is expected to total 53.8 million acres, down 9 percent from 2009. Winter wheat seedings are estimated at 37.7 million acres, 13 percent below last year, but up 2 percent from the previous estimate. Durum wheat producers planned to seed 2.2 million acres, down 13 percent from the previous year.

RICE: **California** farmers intended to seed rice on 600 thousand acres as of March 1. This figure is 7 percent above the 561 thousand acres seeded in 2009. The expressed intentions were to seed 540 thousand acres to medium grain varieties, 10.0 thousand to long grain and 50.0 thousand to short grain varieties. **Nationally**, growers intended to seed 3.41 million acres, up 9 percent from 2009.

BARLEY: On March 1, **California** farmers had planted or intended to plant 100.0 thousand acres to barley, 11 percent above the previous year. **U.S.** growers intended to seed 3.27 million acres for 2010, down 8 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest barley planted acreage on record, well below the previous record low of 3.45 million acres established in 2006.

SUGAR BEETS: **California** producers had planted or intended to plant 25.0 thousand acres of sugar beets, as of March 1, down slightly from the 2009 crop year. **Nationally**, the area planted to sugar beets for the 2010 crop year is expected to total 1.17 million acres, down 1 percent from the 2009 planted acreage.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS: On March 1, seeding of dry edible beans was planned for 63.5 thousand acres in **California**, 7 percent below last year. **Nationally**, farmers intend to plant 1.77 million acres of dry edible beans in 2010, up 15 percent from last year.

ALL HAY: **California** producers intended to harvest hay from 1.5 million acres as of March 1, down 1 percent from the 1.52 million acres harvested last year. **U.S.** producers expect to harvest 60.5 million acres of hay in 2010, up 1 percent from 2009.

SWEET POTATOES: **California** growers intended to plant 18.5 thousand acres in 2010, up 6 percent from 2009. **U.S.** growers intend to plant 117 thousand acres of sweet potatoes this year, up 7 percent from last year.

CALIFORNIA AND U.S. FIELD CROPS

Crop	2008	2009	Indicated 2010	<u>2010</u> <u>2009</u>
	1,000 Acres			Percent
Wheat, Winter 1/				
California	680.0	590.0	600.0	102
U.S.	46,307.0	43,311.0	37,698.0	87
Wheat, Durum 2/				
California 3/	160.0	180.0	115.0	64
U.S.	2,721.0	2,554.0	2,223.0	87
Oats 1/ 2/				
California	260.0	250.0	240.0	96
U.S.	3,247.0	3,404.0	3,364.0	99
Barley 1/ 2/				
California	95.0	90.0	100.0	111
U.S.	4,246.0	3,567.0	3,273.0	92
Corn, All 2/				
California	670.0	550.0	650.0	118
U.S.	85,982.0	86,482.0	88,798.0	103
Rice 2/				
California:				
All	519.0	561.0	600.0	107
Long	9.0	5.0	10.0	200
Medium	460.0	505.0	540.0	107
Short 4/	50.0	51.0	50.0	98
U.S.:				
All	2,995.0	3,135.0	3,411.0	109
Long	2,365.0	2,290.0	2,575.0	112
Medium	579.0	793.0	785.0	99
Short	51.0	52.0	51.0	98
Cotton, Upland 2/				
California	120.0	71.0	100.0	141
U.S.	9,297.0	9,007.5	10,315.0	115
Cotton, Amer.-Pima 2/				
California	155.0	119.0	165.0	139
U.S.	174.0	141.7	190.0	134
Beans, Dry Edible 2/ 5/				
California	52.0	68.5	63.5	93
U.S.	1,495.0	1,537.5	1,766.6	115
Sugar Beets 6/				
California 7/	26.0	25.1	25.0	100
U.S. 8/	1,090.7	1,183.2	1,174.2	99
Hay, All 2/ 9/				
California	1,610.0	1,520.0	1,500.0	99
U.S.	60,152.0	59,755.0	60,460.0	101
Sweet Potatoes 2/				
California	14.8	17.4	18.5	106
U.S.	103.2	109.6	117.1	107

1/ Includes area planted in preceding fall.

2/ Intended plantings in 2010 as indicated by reports from farmers.

3/ Includes area planted in preceding fall in California.

4/ Includes sweet rice.

5/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

6/ Intended plantings in 2010 as indicated by reports from processors.

7/ Relates to year of intended harvest for fall planted beets in central California and to year of planting for overwintered beets in central and southern California.

8/ Relates to year of intended harvest in all States, except California.

9/ Area harvested.

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES – MARCH 2010

Mid-March prices received by California farmers increased from February for all hay and other hay. All potatoes and fall potatoes were below the previous month. Alfalfa hay remained the same as the previous month. A mid-month price for wheat, barley, dry edible beans and upland cotton lint was not published to avoid possible disclosure of individual operations. Prices were below a year earlier for all potatoes, fall potatoes, and all types of hay.

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 141 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 6 points (4.4 percent) from February. The Crop Index is up 8 points (5.4 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 5 points (4.1 percent). Producers received higher prices for onions, lettuce, eggs, and cattle and lower prices for milk, corn, soybeans, and apples. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of strawberries, soybeans, broilers, and milk offset decreased marketings of cattle, corn, cotton, and oranges.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 15 points (12 percent) from March 2009. The Food Commodities Index, at 143, increased 10 points (7.5 percent) from last month and increased 21 points (17 percent) from March 2009.

The March All Crops Index is 155, up 5.4 percent from February and March 2009. Index increases for commercial vegetables, fruits & nuts, and potatoes & dry beans more than offset the index decreases for feed grains & hay, oil-bearing crops, food grains, and cotton.

The March Food Grains Index, at 171, is 0.6 percent below the previous month and 15 percent lower than a year ago. The March all wheat price, at \$154.33 per ton, is down \$3.34 from February, and \$36.00 below March 2009.

The March Feed Grains & Hay Index is 151, down 1.3 percent from last month, and 11 percent below a year ago. The corn price, at \$124.64 per ton, is down \$2.15 from last month, and \$12.86 below March 2009. The all hay price, at \$108.00 per ton, is up \$1.00 from February, but down \$21.00 from last March. Sorghum grain, at \$5.34 per cwt., is 10 cents below February and 3 cents lower than March last year.

The March Cotton Index, at 105, is down 1.9 percent from February, but 57 percent above last year. The March price, at 63.9 cents per pound, is down 1.1 cents from the previous month, but up 23.5 cents from last March.

The March Potatoes & Dry Beans Index, at 133, is up 1.5 percent from last month, but 17 percent below March 2009. The all potato price, at \$7.46 per cwt., is up 12 cents from February, but down \$1.81 from last March. The all dry bean price, at \$30.80 per cwt., is up 50 cents from the previous month, but \$1.70 below March 2009.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		March 2009	February 2010	Mar 15, 2010	March 2009	February 2010	Mar 15, 2010
Dollars							
Corn 2/	Tons	---	---	---	137.50	126.79	124.64
Wheat 2/	Tons	3/	192.67	3/	190.33	157.67	154.33
Oats 2/	Tons	4/	---	---	173.13	142.50	132.50
Barley 2/	Tons	4/	3/	3/	209.58	187.92	159.17
Sorghum Grain 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	5.37	5.44	5.34
Rice 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	15.60	14.40	14.60
Dry Edible Beans 2/	Cwt.	66.80	60.00	3/	32.50	30.30	30.80
All Potatoes 5/	Cwt.	21.60	8.50	8.40	9.27	7.34	7.46
Winter	Cwt.	34.70	---	---	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	13.90	8.50	8.40	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled 2/	Tons	132.00	103.00	106.00	129.00	107.00	108.00
Alfalfa Hay, Baled 2/	Tons	129.00	109.00	109.00	138.00	111.00	111.00
Other Hay, Baled 2/	Tons	149.00	76.00	94.00	110.00	97.10	98.60
Upland Cotton Lint 2/	Lbs	0.589	3/	3/	0.404	0.650	0.639
Cottonseed	Tons	---	---	---	---	151.00	---

1/ The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers. They are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

2/ Previous month revised to monthly average.

3/ Not published to avoid possible disclosure of operations.

4/ Insufficient data to establish a price.

5/ Monthly average.

INDEX NUMBER OF PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, UNITED STATES

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	Mar 2009	Feb 2010	Mar 2010	Mar 2009	Feb 2010	Mar 2010
Prices Received						
All Farm Products	800	855	1/ 897	126	135	1/ 141
All Crops	729	727	1/ 770	147	147	1/ 155
Food Grains	638	546	1/ 541	201	172	1/ 171
Feed Grains and Hay	602	546	1/ 537	169	153	1/ 151
Cotton	342	550	1/ 541	67	107	1/ 105
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	814	664	1/ 672	161	131	1/ 133
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities,						
Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates 2/	2,391	2,447	2,448	180	184	184
Parity Ratio 3/	33	35	37	70	73	77

1/ Revised.

2/ All production indexes as of 15th of month.

3/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

GRAIN STOCKS

On March 1, 2010 **California** wheat stocks in all positions totaled 317 thousand tons, 12 percent below a year earlier. Off-farm corn stocks were 11 percent below March 2009. Barley off-farm stocks were 18 percent above March 2009. Oats totaled 2.64 thousand tons in California off-farm storage facilities as of March 1.

U.S. wheat stocks in all positions were 30 percent above a year earlier as of March 1. Oat stocks were up 3 percent, and barley stocks were 22 percent above a year earlier. U.S. corn stocks in all positions totaled 215.4 million tons, and sorghum grain stocks totaled 4.91 million tons.

GRAIN STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS
(Includes stocks under support and government owned grain.)

Grain and Position	March 1, 2009	Dec. 1, 2009 1/	March 1, 2010
	Tons		
ALL WHEAT			
California			
On-Farm	12,000	39,000	9,000
Off-Farm 2/	347,370	485,070	307,830
Total	359,370	524,070	316,830
U.S. Total	31,201,920	53,450,730	40,569,990
BARLEY			
California			
Off-Farm 2/ 3/	11,784	26,136	13,944
U.S. Total	3,098,424	4,953,336	3,777,576
OATS			
California			
Off Farm 2/ 3/	3,920	3,056	2,640
U.S. Total	1,527,200	1,770,064	1,568,416
CORN			
California			
Off-Farm 2/ 3/	203,644	256,564	198,520
U.S. Total	194,716,060	305,828,880	215,430,320
SORGHUM GRAIN			
California			
Off-Farm 2/ 3/ 4/	6,272	2,240	1,960
U.S. Total	5,763,800	7,020,524	4,907,308

- 1/ Revised.
- 2/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.
- 3/ California on-farm stocks and total stocks are included in United States totals.
- 4/ California off-farm stocks and total stocks are included in United States totals.

OFF-FARM RICE STOCKS

Stocks of milled rice stored in **California** mills and warehouses on March 1, 2010 totaled 1.94 million cwt. This was 13 percent above the 1.72 million cwt. stored a year earlier. Whole kernels accounted for 71 percent of the total milled rice in storage. **Nationally**, milled rice stocks in all positions totaled 4.90 million cwt., up 3 percent from a year ago. Milled rice stocks were comprised of 3.92 million cwt. of whole kernel rice and 979 thousand cwt. of second heads, screenings, and brewer's rice.

California rough rice stocks in all positions totaled 28.8 million cwt. on March 1, 2010. This was 25 percent above the 22.9 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. **Nationally**, rough rice in all positions on March 1 totaled 101.5 million cwt., up 11 percent from the total on March 1, 2009.

ROUGH AND MILLED RICE STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

Type of Rice	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	March 1		March 1	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
	1,000 Cwt.			
ROUGH RICE				
Long Grain	560	350	64,226	65,489
Medium Grain	20,035	1/	24,755	33,377
Short Grain	2,345	1/	2,347	2,676
TOTAL ROUGH RICE	22,940	28,775	91,328	101,542
MILLED RICE				
Whole Kernels (Head Rice)				
Long Grain	1/	1/	2,300	2,370
Medium Grain	754	1,295	978	1,472
Short Grain	1/	1/	69	74
Total	832	1,371	3,347	3,916
Broken Kernels				
Second Heads	1/	1/	794	707
Screenings 2/	1/	---	64	20
Brewers	1/	1/	527	252
Total	892	572	1,385	979
TOTAL MILLED RICE	1,724	1,943	4,732	4,895

- 1/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
- 2/ Screenings included with second heads in CA.

CALIFORNIA ROUGH RICE STOCKS

Month	Season		
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
	1,000 Cwt.		
December 1	38,189	35,848	41,402
March 1	27,523	22,940	28,755
June 1	13,484	11,810	---
August 1	5,746	5,987	---
October 1 1/	1,837	1,832	---

- 1/ Small amount of on-farm stocks included in off-farm total.

U.S. APRIL POTATO STOCKS UP 11 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

California fall potato stocks were estimated at 900 thousand cwt. as of April 1, 2010, 12.5 percent more than last year's holdings. Stocks represented 22 percent of the 2009 fall production, compared to 20 percent of the previous year.

The 13 major potato States held 129 million cwt. of potatoes in storage April 1, 2010, up 11 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 34 percent of the 2009 fall storage States' production, 3 percentage points above April 1, 2009. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 1.40 million cwt. on April 1, 2010, down 3 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon.

Potato disappearance, at 255 million cwt., was slightly above April 1, 2009. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 24.4 million cwt., was up 18 percent from the same date in 2009.

Processors in the 9 major States have used 125 million cwt. of potatoes this season, down 6 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 23.0 million cwt. of the total processing, down 7 percent from last year.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND APRIL 1 STOCKS 1/

State	Crop of 2008			Crop of 2009		
	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of Production	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of Production
	1,000 Cwt.		Percent	1,000 Cwt.		Percent
California	3,948	800	20	4,158	900	22
Colorado	21,907	9,000	41	22,080	8,100	37
Idaho	116,475	45,000	39	131,000	51,000	39
Maine	14,769	5,600	38	15,263	6,000	39
Michigan	14,875	1,800	12	15,660	1,200	8
Minnesota	20,400	6,400	31	20,700	7,300	35
Montana	3,465	2,100	61	3,347	2,000	60
Nebraska	8,245	2,200	27	8,756	2,200	25
New York	5,696	700	12	4,950	500	10
North Dakota	22,680	6,300	28	19,125	5,000	26
Oregon	18,676	7,400	40	21,460	8,000	37
Washington	93,000	23,700	25	88,450	28,300	32
Wisconsin	25,730	4,800	19	28,980	8,600	30
13-State Total	369,866	115,800	31	383,929	129,100	34
Klamath Basin 2/	---	1,450	---	---	1,400	---

- 1/ Stocks include processor holdings and most seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2009 totaled 24.5 million cwt.
- 2/ Includes potato stocks in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Included in the 13 State total.

POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

California winter potato estimates are combined with spring potatoes beginning in 2010. California's combined spring potato production forecast at 11.8 million cwt., up 64 percent from last year.

Area for harvest is forecast at 89.6 thousand acres, 22 percent more than 2009. The average yield of 286 cwt. per acre is down 3 cwt. from 2009. The final estimate of 2009 summer potato production is 14.5 million cwt., up slightly from the preliminary estimate in the January Crop Production 2009 Summary. Harvested area covered 42.7 thousand acres, down 1 percent from the 2009 preliminary estimate. The revised average yield of 340 cwt. per acre is up 4 cwt. from the 2009 preliminary estimate.

Beginning in 2010, California winter and summer season potatoes are included in the spring season total. Nationally, the spring potato production for 2010 is forecast at 25.6 million cwt., up 20 percent from 2009.

POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

State	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Yield		Production	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	1,000 Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
WINTER								
California 1/	9.0	(NA)	8.7	(NA)	245	(NA)	2,132	(NA)
SPRING								
Arizona	4.0	3.7	4.0	3.7	280	280	1,120	1,036
California 1/	17.8	31.0	17.5	31.0	410	380	7,175	11,780
Florida	32.6	32.4	28.9	31.0	266	244	7,700	7,550
Hastings	20.0	20.2	16.5	19.0	260	230	4,290	4,370
Other	12.6	12.2	12.4	12.0	275	265	3,410	3,180
North Carolina	16.0	16.0	15.0	15.5	225	210	3,375	3,255
Texas	8.8	8.8	8.3	8.4	235	235	1,951	1,974
U.S. Total 1/	79.2	91.9	73.7	89.6	289	286	21,321	25,595
SUMMER 1/								
California 2/	3.4	----	3.4	----	405	----	1,377	----
Colorado	4.0	----	3.9	----	400	----	1,560	----
Texas	5.9	----	5.4	----	460	----	2,484	----
U.S. Total 2/	44.2	----	42.7	----	340	----	14,522	----

1/ Beginning in 2010, winter and summer estimates included in spring total for California.

(NA) Not Available.

2/ Revised.

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